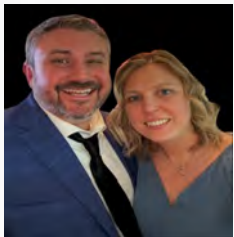


Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
MARCH 2025

2025 Ministerial Day of Encouragement
Saturday, April 5, 2025 at Maple Grove CoB
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This workshop is available to pastors and spouses, lay leaders, all congregation members. Anyone who is interested in wanting to have encouragement, hope, healing, joy or wanting to hear God's voice.



The sessions will be led by Seth and Angela Adkins and Jep Hostetler. Seth and Angela have been pastoring and in ministry since 2003. They have a

passion for leadership development and encouraging leaders. Seth has worked with leaders in 11 different countries, investing in and strengthening their ministries. Seth spent four years across the states helping equip local churches with outreach and evangelism tools. He has also been a church planter and is now helping others plant churches and movements. Angela is an author and speaker and has developed resources for the church in the area of inner healing.



Jep is a professor at the Ohio State University of Medicine. He had an early interest in healing, health and humor, led him to write the book, "*The Joy*

Factor" (Harold Press). Based on the book, Hostetler has presented many workshops on "healthy humor", illustrating them with visual humor and a touch of magic .

Registration fee is \$15 per person, or \$25 per couple. This does include lunch, snacks and sessions. Preregistration deadline is March 26, 2025. Register by mail with the form provided to congregations or online at

<https://nohcob.org/DayofEncouragement>.

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2025 Clergy Spouse Retreat

On Sunday, February 16, 2025, Clergy and Spouses of the Northern Ohio District met at the Quality Inn and Suites in Richfield, Ohio for a 2 day retreat. At 2:00 p.m. Laura and I met with Kris Hawk and Eddy and Brian, two of the managers at Quality Inn, who helped us with setting up for the retreat.

The retreat started on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. with registration. The Ministry Commission (Bill Holsopple, Steve Keib, Candie Orr, and Mike Huffaker, chairperson) sponsored this event with a great deal of help from Kris Hawk, District Executive. I thank Kris for her help and preparations. We also brought in David Shumate, who is the Annual Conference Secretary and is also a Pastor in Virginia as our guest speaker. He spoke for three sessions over the few days. Before all the worship sessions and any sessions with David, we began with music, (praise songs and hymns) by our praise team made up of some of the ministry commission members (Bill, Steve, and Mike). I am not sure what we should call our praise team, maybe BSM praise team? Anyway, these guys inspired me through the week. After BSM praise, Bill Holsopple delivered a message about Interruptions in Ministry. At the end of worship, we all were invited to take communion by intinction. It was really spiritually meaningful. The rest of Sunday night was free time. Some of us Pastors and Spouses played cards. I had a lot of fun because I won. HA! It was good fellowship.

On Monday, after breakfast, we began our session with the BSM praise team. The clergy then began their first session with David and the spouses had a session with Dawn Baldwin. Thank you Dawn for your leadership during the retreat! David's first session was titled "The smell of manure is the smell of money". His reflections of his ministry experiences were interesting and really good. We had a small break and then we were led into session 2 with our spouses with David and that session was titled

"Lights in the Outhouse". More good stories and reflection from his ministry experiences. We had lunch and then free time in the afternoon. At 5:00 p.m. BSM praise led music and then I preached about how the minister needs to be a servant leader. We then were led with washing of hands and then on to dinner. After that session we had free time. Played more cards. We played 7s and a form of Pictionary, which was hilarious watching some of us draw. I am not an artist. People thought my cow was a dinosaur. Anyway, we had great fun!

On Tuesday, after breakfast, BSM praise team led us and then David had his last session which was titled "3 things you won't see on my obituary." Then BSM led one last time in music and Steve Keib led us in a good sermon on John 21:15-17. This is after Peter denied Jesus. Jesus asked him to if he loved him 3 times. Feed my Sheep. Again, inspirational. Thank you to all the members of Ministry commission, Eddy and Brian, managers of Quality Inn, David Shumate, Dawn Baldwin, Kris Hawk, Laura Huffaker, and everyone who attended. This was a wonderful weekend with great food, fellowship and a little rest and renewal thrown in there.

**In Christ, Mike Huffaker, Ministerial
Commission Chairman of Northern Ohio**



Celebration for Delbert Kettering Sunday April 6 at Maple Grove CoB



Delbert Kettering, will be sharing the message during the worship service on Sunday, April 6th. The worship service begins at 10:30 am at Maple Grove Church of the Brethren. And there will be lunch (provided by the Women's Fellowship) and a reception to follow the worship service honoring Delbert's 75th year being a licensed and ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren.

Come if able to celebrate Delbert!!!

Ministerial Ethics Training ***March 29th from 10 am-4 pm*** ***At the Northern Ohio*** ***District Office***

All Ordained and Commission clergy must attend the Advance Ethics training for the renewal of credentials. For those that were unable to attend the Ethics Training sessions in October, we will hold a make-up workshop on Saturday, March 29th at the District Office, 1107 East Main Street in Ashland. Lunch will be provided. This is the last session offered in our district. The training will also be available at Annual Conference in Greensboro. You can register on line at nohcob.org/ethics_march29 or email krishawk@nohcob.org.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Akron First– **Rebecca Ebie** is providing pulpit supply.

Center – Search Committee has completed the profile.

Jonah's People – **Mark Self** and **Amanda Reidling** are serving as interim co-pastors.

Sugar Creek West – **Ministry Team** providing pulpit supply.

Congregations that have chosen not to seek at this time:

Bristolville– **Ed Agler** serving as interim.

Brook Park– **Ryan Lopez** serving as interim pastor.

Dupont – **Solomon Okang** serving as preacher.

Eden – **Tom Michaels** serving as transitional pastor.

Freeburg – **Ed Wartluft** serving as preacher.

District Prayer Calendar

March

Our Churches

Ashland Dickey, Pastor Andrew Cuffman

Ashland First, Pastor Brian Layman

Bethel, Pastor David Wyant

Black River, Pastor Mark Teal

District Leadership

Our Nominating Committee, Cindy Peel, Chair

Other Districts

Shenandoah, Virgina

Denominational Leadership

Dava Hensley, Annual Conference Moderator

Dawn Baldwin, Standing Committee Delegate

Church of the Brethren in Brazil

April

Our Churches

Bristolville, Interim Pastor Ed Agler

Brook Park, Interim Pastor, Ryan Lopez

Center, Pulpit Supply

Chippewa, Pastor Bill Eley

District Leadership

Our Central Committee, Mike Conner,
Moderator

Other Districts

Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest

Denominational Leadership

Discipleship and Leadership

Formation Office of Ministry

Church of the Brethren in Haiti

Visit our website www.nohcob.org/prayer for a complete prayer calendar for 2025.



“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”
- Isaiah 43:19

By now you are aware of the upcoming New & Renew Conference held this year at the Church of the Brethren Offices in Elgin, May 14-16, 2025. This premiere

church planting/church revitalization event is once again gaining ground this year as a hybrid experience with folks coming both in-person and virtually online.

We invite you to encourage those pastors and leadership in your districts to participate in this event. Please read the invitation below, highlighting the benefits of attending:

- Insightful keynotes and workshops tuned especially to those who want to hone their leadership skills.
- Fellowship with those who have life-giving and **fruitful** stories to share.
- CEUs will be given to all who sign up for an extra \$10. But it doesn't stop there because ---
- CEUs will be available *after* then event by way of recordings, through the end of the year.
- If you register and *cannot attend*, you can still view the entire conference through keynote and workshop recordings and still gain access to the more than 2.0 CEUs being offered.

Hybrid and Recorded:

If you can't attend the conference in real-time, don't worry! Registration will grant you access to recorded keynotes and workshops, allowing you to earn up to 2.6 CEUs until December 31, 2025.

For more information, updates and to register, please visit: www.brethren.org/newandrenew

2025 New & Renew Conference is Hybrid!

Join us for the New & Renew Conference, May 14-16, 2025.

- Onsite at Church of the Brethren General Offices, Elgin, IL
- Virtually via online links

Are you seeking a spiritually enriching and creative space to worship, learn, network, and grow? With everything happening in the world and the church, would it be beneficial for you to connect with other Jesus followers who are exploring and implementing fresh expressions of mission, church planting, and congregational revitalization?

Starting Wednesday night and concluding Friday afternoon, this conference has more than 20 sessions to broaden your knowledge of both church planting and congregational renewal. Besides the workshops, inspirational worship, keynotes and storytelling will invigorate your calling and passion for ministry.

We are excited about the leadership scheduled for this event:



Keynote presenter Jonathan Brooks serves as the Lead Pastor at Lawndale Christian Community Church in Chicago, and CIO* for Lawndale Christian Ministries. He is a sought-after speaker, writer, artist and community developer. Jonathan

holds a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Northern Seminary with an emphasis in Christian Community Development.

holds a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Northern Seminary with an emphasis in Christian Community Development.

*CIO – Chief Inspiration Officer

Our preachers and workshop presenters will include:

- Jeremy Ashworth
 - Founa Augustin-Badet
 - Ryan Braught - Escaping the Church Growth Graveyard – 6 sessions
 - Josh Brockway – What Does it Mean to be a Disciple?
 - Stan Dueck - Pastor & Congregational Leaders Overcoming the Sacrifice Syndrome: Supporting Pastors, Church Planters, and Church Leaders
 - Leonor Ochoa
 - Jody Romero
 - Becky Ullom-Naagle - Where is our Youth Today in Leadership?
 - Gina Wright-Hawkins – Engaging the Neighborhood
- ...and a host of others.



Pre-Annual Conference Continuing Education Event

Annual Conference 2025
Greensboro, North Carolina
July 2-6
Koury Convention Center
3121 W Gate City Blvd

<https://www.brethren.org/ac2025/registration/>

Registration is now open. Register on-line through the link above.

Witness to the Host City

Make a difference in Greensboro this year. Backpack beginnings is a Backpack Beginnings (BPB) is a nonprofit dedicated to making a difference for local, low-income children and families by providing for their tangible basic needs. Below is a list of items that will be collected along with monetary contributions can be made by checking during the worship offering or on the AC website offering page.

A. School supplies: backpacks (fun patterns and characters), folders, notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, erasers, rulers, glue sticks, highlighters, scissors.

B. Hygiene products: full size shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, hairbrushes.

C. Free extras for anyone driving with extra room in their car: gently used children's books, gently used children's clothing and shoes, gently used baby accessories, gently used toys.

Church of the Brethren Ministers' Association
Pre-Annual Conference Continuing Education Event

A PLACE FOR EVERY BODY: DISABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND THE CHURCH

July 1-2, 2025 • Greensboro, North Carolina



JEANNE DAVIES serves as the Executive Director for the Anabaptist Disabilities Network. Jeanne has a Master of Divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary, a Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, and a Graduate Certificate in Homiletic Peer Coaching from Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Jeanne is the author of *Believing and Belonging: An Accessible Anabaptist Membership Curriculum*, an illustrated curriculum of 26 lessons for youth and adults written at a third-grade reading level.

In the U.S., more than 25% of adults have some type of disability. About 8.5% of children have been diagnosed with a developmental disability. People living in rural areas experience higher rates of disability than those in urban areas. Whether we are aware or not, we have many disabled people in our congregations. Many more are not present because of barriers to access and belonging. Jesus invited everyone to the table, meeting needs and calling forth gifts. How might we create congregations that have a place for everybody, and live into the fullness of the body of Christ?

Jeanne will guide us through three sessions:
Tuesday evening: What Disabilities Us?
Wednesday morning: Creating Accessible Congregations
Wednesday afternoon: Accessible Worship

Suggested Reading:

- *Everybody Belongs: Serving Together: Inclusive Church Ministry with People with Disabilities* by Terry DeYoung and Mark Stephenson
- "Toward Accessible Worship: The Experiences and Insights of Christians with Disabilities," *Journal of Disability and Religion*, 2024, Vol. 28, No. 2, 189-219, by Erik W. Carter, Michael Tuttle, Emilee Span, Charis Ling and Tiffany B. Jones

https://bcds.soe.baylor.edu/sites/g/files/ebvq41796/files/2024-11/toward_accessible_worship_the_experiences_and_insights_of_christians_with_disabilities_1.pdf

ARRIVAL/REGISTRATION
Tuesday, July 1
4:00 - 6:00 pm

EVENT
Tuesday, July 1
6:00 - 9:00 pm
Wednesday, July 2
9:00 - 11:45 am / 1:15 - 4:00 pm

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER
offered Tuesday, July 1 to all attendees, 5:00 - 5:45 pm, just prior to the opening session (advance registration required for meal; attendees' children may be included if registered)

LUNCHEON
(available for purchase)
Wednesday, July 2
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

More information and registration:
www.brethren.org/ministryoffice

Church of the Brethren

Register online at www.brethren.org/ministryoffice beginning March 5, 2025 or by mail using the 2025 Event Registration Form on reverse



Continuing Education Opportunity

The Brethren Academy will offer the 8 week on-line course **Leadership and Administration for the Now and Future Church**, from August 13th-October 7, 2025. Description: What makes for an excellent leader in the current and emerging church? What qualities must leaders cultivate to meet the needs of the now and future church? How might we stay attuned to what God is doing today and how God is calling us into the future? This course will explore these questions by engaging current theory and practical resources for developing church leaders who can address the challenges and opportunities present in today's churches. In this course, students will strengthen their own spiritual fortitude and self-awareness, while developing skills for administration, effective communication, conflict management, and visioning

Audrey Hollenberg-Duffy, is the Coordinator of English Language Ministry Training Programs for the Brethren Academy. She also serves as co-pastor with her spouse Tim, at the Oakton Church of the Brethren in northern Virginia. The deadline to register for this course is *July 9, 2025*. Continuing Education is offered at 2.0 CEU. Course Fee: \$300. To register and more information go to <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/>

Camp Inspiration Hills News



Inspiration Hills Camp

SAVE THE DATES!

Put these dates on your calendar so that you don't miss camp this summer!

- June 8-13 - Senior High Camp
- June 13-14 - Senior High Volunteer Weekend
- June 15-20 - Junior High Camp
- July 6-11 - Junior Camp
- July 13-15 - Beginners Camp
- July 13-15 - Beginners Parents
- July 15-18 - Bring Your Big Camp
- Aug 29-Sept 1 - Labor Day Family Camp



inspirationhillscamp.org

The Tire Fairy

This is a feel good story I just had to share...A couple of weeks ago Mark Dulabaum, who is the Facility Manager at Inspiration Hills Camp took the camp truck into Walmart to have four new tires put on. The tires were installed. Well, last week Lisa Snyder, District Treasurer, noticed four \$84 credits on the credit card invoice for the tires. Well she reached out to Andrew, who is the Camp Director and he went out to look at the truck to make sure their were 4 new tires on the truck and yes four new tires were put on the truck. No one knows how the credits got issued and from whom. Maybe someone overheard Mark at Walmart and paid for them as they saw it was from the camp or maybe we do have a tire fairy. Regardless, everyone knows how the camp has struggled over the last few years, this is a feel good story I just had to share. There is a tire fairy among us!!!

Wish List

With camping season fast approaching I was not sure you are aware that Camp Inspiration Hills has a wish list. There are all different types of items, big or small on their wish list. The link to the Amazon wish list is below or on the Inspiration Hills Camp website under the tab Get Involved, you will see the wish list.

<https://a.co/eCnsIAf>



Inspiration Hills Camp

VOLUNTEER WEDNESDAYS

Have some free time on Wednesdays? We can use your help

Call us for more information
419-846-3010

Mark Your Calendar

- 3.28 BBI (Theology) Class, District Office, 9:30 am
- 3.29 Ministerial Ethics Make-Up Training, District Office, at 10:00 am
- 4.1 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10:00 am
- 4.1 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm
- 4.2 Western Area Pastor's Gathering at 12:30 pm
- 4.5 Ministerial Day of Encouragement, Maple Grove, at 9:30 am
- 4.8 Executive Committee Meeting, District Office, at 5:00 pm
- 4.10 Central Area Clergy Breakfast, District Office, at 9:00 am
- 4.15 Northern Ohio Pastor's Gathering at 10:00 am
- 4.26 SiSters Retreat, Inspiration Hills, at 9:00 am

District Staff Hours

The District Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 2 pm.

District Executive Minister, **Kris Hawk** takes Monday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org. She will be on vacation March 21st and March 24th—March 27th.

Administrative Secretary, **Laura Huffaker** is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. She can be reached at 419 -281-3058 or laura@nohcob.org.



A Ministry of Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren

Where:

Inspiration Hills Camp
4819 W Easton Rd
Burbank, Ohio 44214

When:

April 26th, 2025

Time:

9:00am- 3:00pm

Cost:

\$20/per person
this fee includes lunch at
camp

Register online at:

www.nohcob.org/sistersretreat

or contact Crystal Zellers:

Crystal7605@live.com

330.705.0594

Spring Retreat

Join us for a day of
Joy + Laughter

Our Guest Speaker:

Dawn Morton Ed. D.

Ashland Theological Seminary

Dr. Dawn serves as Children's Ministry Leader at her church, Freedom Ridge, Mansfield, Ohio and is also serving as Leadership Team Chair in the absence of a lead pastor. She is the Area Team Coordinator of Operation Christmas Child for six Ohio counties, a member of SPCM – Society of Professors in Christian Ministry, serving her second term as a board member of the international organization. She has served in the teaching ministry of the church for 50+ years helping others to be formed to the image of Christ. She believes in being a vessel used by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, so that others might encounter transformation with Christ.



Using Psalm 126: 2-3 as our guide, Dawn will share Joy + Laughter, along with a personal message and encouragement for all!

We will use the surroundings of camp for available break out sessions, so everyone can enjoy our time at camp for the day.

We will also have activities available around Dawn's mission to support Operation Christmas Child!

If you would like to bring an item to help Dr. Dawn fill boxes you can find a list of items at:

<https://samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>

